

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 28, 1891.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. SAWYER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 1198.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1198) granting a pension to Amelia T. Seywert, have examined the same and report:

The committee does not concur in the report on which this bill was passed by the House, which is as follows:

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1198) granting a pension to Amelia T. Seywert, have considered the same and report as follows:

The claimant is the sister of Charles H. Miller, who enlisted November 3, 1859, under the name of Charles Monroe, in Battery G, Second United States Artillery, and served continuously (with two reenlistments) until March 8, 1870, when honorably discharged.

He subsequently enlisted under the same name (Charles Monroe) May 22, 1872, as a seaman on the revenue cutter *Reliance* and was discharged July 15, 1873.

On the 23d of June, 1885, the soldier made application for pension on account of chronic diarrhea and its results incurred during his service in the late war. This claim was allowed at \$10 per month, to begin March 19, 1886, and end May 19, 1886, the soldier having died on the last named date. The soldier died prior to the allowance of the claim, and he having left no widow or minor children, his sister, Mrs. Seywert (the beneficiary under this bill), completed the claim, and was allowed the small amount of accrued pension as a partial reimbursement for the expenses of his last sickness and burial.

The testimony shows that Mrs. Seywert took care of and provided for her brother, the said soldier, during all his years of suffering from 1873 until May 19, 1886, when he died. It is further shown that Mrs. Seywert is now about 75 years old and helpless, being dependent upon the small salary of a daughter which barely supplies the necessities of life. In view of the applicant's devotion to her brother during the long period of his sickness, and the fact that his sickness and death were the results of his long and faithful service, your committee recommend the passage of the bill with an amendment striking out all provision for arrears of pension, and providing for a pension at the rate of \$12 per month from the passage of the act.

The law designates who are the dependent relatives of soldiers, and it does not apply to the beneficiary in this bill. It is doubtless true that she gave her brother proper attention and care, as related in the House report, but that does not constitute a claim, nor justify the passage of a special act. The recognition of claims based upon such a statement of facts would extend to relatives of soldiers of this class an invitation to appeal to Congress for pensions that are excluded by the general laws, and that it was never the policy or design of the Government to grant. If there have been any precedents of this character, and if there have they have been very rare, it is plainly the duty of Congress to see that they are not multiplied and to discourage, as far as possible, solicitations for Government aid that are multiplying without a proper regard for consistency and propriety.

The bill is reported adversely, with a recommendation that it be indefinitely postponed.

